

District IV Commissioner Romney Rogers



Telephone Town Hall – Thanks to everyone who participated in my Telephone Town Hall Meeting on Sept. 10. There were 7,352 neighbors who joined the call, with 600 people on the call at the same time during peak participation. Thirteen people asked questions or made comments on such topics as bicycle safety, code violations and property maintenance, future development, and flooding.

State of the City – On Sept. 9, Mayor Seiler delivered the annual State of the City Address at the new U.S. Customs and Border Protection facility at Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport. The event began with a reception to honor City Committee and Advisory Board Members. A video

of the Mayor's remarks is available at <http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/government/city-commission/mayor-john-p-jack-seiler>.

FY 2016 Final Budget – The City's FY 2016 Budget, adopted Sept. 8, is driving our communitywide Vision. The budget does not increase our current operating millage rate or the fire assessment fee. We are keeping the millage rate at its current level of 4.1193 per \$1,000 of taxable value, representing the ninth consecutive fiscal year that the City Commission has held the line on property taxes. The Broward County Property Appraiser's Office has reported that our property values increased by 9.68%, marking the fourth consecutive year of growth. Our City also led the entire county with nearly \$330 million in new construction. These are good signs of our economic recovery.

Fire-Rescue – The City's Fire-Rescue Department recently became one of only 32 departments out of 47,000 nationwide to achieve both an Insurance Services Organization (ISO) Class 1 rating and national accreditation from the Commission on Fire Accreditation International. The ISO program recognizes the efforts of communities to provide fire protection services for citizens and property owners. Insurance companies use ISO information to help establish fair premiums for fire insurance, generally offering lower premiums in communities with better protection.

Short-term Rentals – On Aug. 18, the City Commission unanimously adopted Ordinance C-15-29, regulating vacation rentals. I have received complaints about such rentals from Colee Hammock, Harbor Inlet, River Oaks (including crew houses), Riverland Village, and Tarpon River, among others. The State won't allow us to impose any rules prohibiting or limiting the duration or frequency of such rentals. Our ordinance requires owners wishing to rent their properties on a short-term basis to register with the City, provide a 24/7 contact for any issues, and ensure that tenants follow applicable City regulations on garbage, noise, and parking. Based on feedback received at a citywide, public forum on Sept. 17, we'll discuss modifications to the ordinance at upcoming Commission meetings.

Curb Protectors – From time to time, I am asked whether "pyramid stones" in the swale area are allowed under City Code. They are not. Since 1993, it has been City policy that only white, concrete "buttons" or "rounded turtlebacks" be used, set a minimum of 6" off the edge of the roadway pavement. Concrete pyramids or button shapes, colors, or positioning other than those allowed may be removed in accordance with Code Section 25-5.

Mark Your Calendar:

- **Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show** runs from Thursday, Nov. 5 through Monday, Nov. 9 this year.
- **Veterans Day Ceremony** is on Wednesday, Nov. 11 at 11 AM, Sandy Nininger Statue on the Riverwalk at the Broward Center.
- **Light Up Lauderdale** is set for Thursday, Nov. 12 at 6:30 PM in Esplanade Park.
- **Open Streets Fort Lauderdale and Winterfest Family Fun Day** will be held on Sunday, Nov. 22 from 10 AM - 3 PM along E Las Olas from S Andrews to SE 15 Avenue. Event details are available online at <http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/openstreets>.
- **Light Up the Beach** will be on Tuesday, Nov. 24 at 5:30 PM, A1A and E Las Olas.
- **Christmas Pageant** at First Baptist Church - Shows run Friday, Nov. 27 - Sunday, Dec. 13. See <http://ChristmasTickets.com>.
- **Christmas on Las Olas** is from 5 - 10 PM on Tuesday, Dec. 1 between SE 6 and 11 avenues.
- **Winterfest Boat Parade** is set for Saturday, Dec. 12. See <http://www.winterfestparade.com>.
- **Las Olas Sunday Market**, 9 AM - 3 PM at 333 E Las Olas. The market is on Facebook, for more information.
- **Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off** - Jan. 30, 2016, 9 AM - 2 PM, Mills Pond Park, 2201 NW 9 Avenue, Fort Lauderdale.

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- My City Hall Office Hours are Mondays from 2 - 5:30 PM and Tuesdays from 9 AM - Noon (in non-Commission weeks). To schedule a meeting, contact MJ Matthews at 954-828-5028 or mmatthews@fortlauderdale.gov.
 - In addition to hosting two Pre-Agenda meetings a month, I am available to attend your HOA meetings to update your neighborhood on what is going on in the City and to answer any questions or address any concerns you may have. Please contact MJ to schedule.